

Bacterial and fungal extraction depends upon the ability of the aerated moving water to penetrate into the felt bag, extract the bacteria and fungi from the compost, transfer them back through the felt bag, and into the nutrient solution. The felt bag greatly restricts interaction between the aerated moving water and the compost inhibiting the extraction of microorganisms, especially in compost centrally located within the felt bag. The felt bag becomes anaerobic if not very carefully cleaned producing contaminated conditions in the next batch of tea. While producing higher quantities of microorganisms than earlier methods, published tests show a relatively low number of bacterial and fungal microbes brewed by the Bio-Blender.

(Ingham, 2003 "The Compost Tea Brewing Manual").—

Claims: Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 12 to 22 as follows.

Claim 12. An apparatus for simultaneously suspending, agitating, and entraining a compost nutrient water culture, comprising:

- a beaker having a predetermined cross-sectional shape for containing said compost nutrient water culture, an open top and an open bottom;
- a lid and strainer covering said open top;
- a vibrating perforated elastic membrane transversely covering the open bottom of said beaker;